

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 22 with the following re-written paragraph:

Referring to Figure 2a, the corner formed at the top 24 and rear 20 edges of the inflatable curtain 14 of the present invention is shown from a cut-away, cross-sectional, side elevation view. The channel 42 for receiving a stiffening member, such as the stiffening member 40 shown in Figure 1, is formed integral with the parent material of the inflatable curtain 14, and extends just below, and substantially parallel with the top edge 24 of the inflatable curtain 14. The channel 42 could be located elsewhere on the curtain 14, as long as the stiffening member 40 that can be disposed therein is able to extend adjacent the inlet port 44 to connect to the gas guide 16. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2a, the channel 42 is located just above the inlet port 44. On the outer edge 54 of the inlet port 44 there exists a receiving aperture ~~46~~ 56 that can receive a protrusion on a gas guide 16 for facilitating proper orientation and connection of the inflatable curtain 14 and the gas guide 16.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 15 with the following re-written paragraph:

Referring to Figures 4a and 4b, one embodiment of the stiffening member 240 is depicted from an overhead plan view (Fig. 4a) and an end view (Fig. 4b) of the second end ~~174~~ 274 of the stiffening member 240. The stiffening member 240 illustrated is a flat, elongated bar-shaped member. It could also be a plate, rod or similar structure that can resist twisting. The stiffening member 240 could be constructed of metal, plastic, or any substance that has a greater stiffness than the inflatable curtain (which is usually constructed of a tightly woven textile material).